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SCIENCE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1913

THE CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF
WASHINGTON¹

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PRESENT STATUS OF THE INSTITUTION

ALTHOUGH the institution is quite young and must be considered as still, to some extent, in its formative stages, this first year of the second decade of its history marks an epoch worthy of something more than passing notice. During this year, to a degree hitherto impracticable, there has been opportunity for an objective view of the meaning of the extensive and varied experience, acquired by the institution, of the principles which have guided its development, and of the limitations, difficulties and dangers which may beset its future progress. During this year also, to a greater degree than hitherto, have appeared evidences from widely divergent sources of an increasing public tendency to take an objective view of the plan, scope, organization and development of the institution and to measure its efficiency by the results of its investigations already published or under way. From these objective views it appears that, in spite of a great diversity of opinion as to what research is and how it should be carried on (a diversity which seems destined to continue indefinitely), there is now a consensus of opinion that the institution has established its position and demonstrated the practicability of the conduct of effective research in establishments wholly devoted thereto, separate and apart from other establishments whose functions are primarily and commendably agricultural, charitable, com-

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

¹ Extracts from the report of the president for the year ending October 31, 1912.